

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 109457
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: NEA/EABINGTON

APPROVED BY: NEA-MR ABINGTON

S/S-O:RGAMBLE

-----140735Z 128136 /14

P 140110Z M 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 109457

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 4023 ACTION SECSTATE AMMAN BEIRUT
CAIRO JIDDA KUWAIT MANAMA DOHA ABU DHABI MUSCAT SANA KHARTOUM
ALGIERS TUNIS RABAT PARIS BONN ROME INFO TEL AVIV USUN
NATO TRIPOLI MOSCOW DAMASCUS DTD 11 MAY

QTE

S E C R E T SECTO 4023

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS) UK

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S MEETING WITH SYRIAN
PRESIDENT ASAD

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES MAY, IN THEIR DISCRETION, DRAW ON
FOLLOWING POINTS TO BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS ON PRESIDENT
CARTER'S MEETING WITH ASAD AND PRESENT STATUS OF OUR
MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 109457

-- MAY 9 MEETING IN GENEVA WITH PRESIDENT ASAD WAS
PART OF PRESENT ROUND OF INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS PRESI-
DENT CARTER IS HOLDING WITH KEY MIDDLE EAST LEADERS TO
LEARN AT FIRST HAND THEIR VIEWS ON MAIN ISSUES OF MIDDLE
EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT, AND TO EXPLORE WHETHER AN AGREED
BASIS CAN BE FOUND FOR RE-CONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE

LATER THIS YEAR. OUR EFFORTS CONTINUE TO BE DIRECTED TO THAT KEY OBJECTIVE.

-- PRESIDENT CARTER REAFFIRMED THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS IN 1977. AT SAME TIME, HE MADE CLEAR OUR VIEW THAT BEFORE GOING TO GENEVA IT IS IMPORTANT THERE BE SOME PROSPECT THAT PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES OF A SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED AT GENEVA, SINCE FAILURE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD INVOLVE SERIOUS RISKS.

-- TO THIS END, THE PRESIDENT EXPLORED IN DEPTH SYRIAN THINKING ON THE CORE ISSUES OF WITHDRAWAL AND BORDERS, A PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT, AND THE NATURE OF PEACE.

-- PRESIDENT ASAD REITERATED SYRIA'S POSITION THAT IN RETURN FOR PEACE THERE MUST BE WITHDRAWAL TO THE 1967 BORDERS. THIS SHOULD APPLY ALSO IN THE CASE OF JERUSALEM SO FAR AS SOVEREIGNTY IS CONCERNED WITH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS, HOWEVER, FOR FREE ACCESS TO THE HOLY PLACES.

-- PRESIDENT ASAD ARGUED THAT "SECURE BORDERS" IN TERRITORIAL TERMS WAS A MEANINGLESS CONCEPT AND THAT SECURITY FOR BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS WOULD COME WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA TURNED FROM THINKING OF WAR TO CONCENTRATING THEIR ENERGIES ON PEACE AND THE NEW ERA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS WHICH PEACE WOULD BRING.

-- AT THE SAME TIME, PRESIDENT ASAD ACCEPTS THE CONCEPT OF LIMITED, RECIPROCAL DEMILITARIZED ZONES AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER FORCES UNDER UNITED NATIONS' AEGIS ALONG THE BORDERS, AS WELL AS SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES. HE QUESTIONS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 109457

TIONED, HOWEVER, THE UTILITY OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AS WATCH STATIONS OR OBSERVATION POSTS IN SMALL, POPULATED AREAS, SUCH AS THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.

-- PRESIDENT CARTER STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN GIVING CONFIDENCE TO BOTH SIDES. HE ALSO EXPLAINED AT LENGTH THE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF MOVING TOWARD NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS AS EVIDENCE OF THEIR PEACEFUL INTENTIONS.

-- PRESIDENT ASAD SAID THAT THE END OF BELLIGERENCY MEANT THE CREATION OF A STATE OF PEACE AND OF CONDITIONS IN WHICH RELATIONS MIGHT DEVELOP NATURALLY OVER TIME. HE DID NOT SEE, HOWEVER, HOW SUCH THINGS AS TRADE AND TRAVEL ACROSS BORDERS COULD BE INCLUDED IN A PEACE SETTLEMENT GIVEN THE HISTORY OF SUSPICION AND HOSTILITY BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS.

-- ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, PRESIDENT ASAD SAID THERE WERE TWO SEPARATE ASPECTS: FIRST WAS THE QUESTION

OF PALESTINIAN TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN 1967, WHICH WAS PART OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF WITHDRAWAL AND A TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT; SECOND, THERE WAS THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER, ASAD RECOGNIZED THAT THIS PRESENTS A COMPLEX SET OF ISSUES WHICH NEED FURTHER STUDY, BUT SAID THE STARTING POINT MUST BE THE UN RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR REPATRIATION OR COMPENSATION.

-- AS CONCERNS THE NATURE OF A PALESTINIAN TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT, ASAD WAS NON-COMMITTAL ON WHETHER A PALESTINIAN ENTITY (WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE WEST BANK, GAZA AND ARAB JERUSALEM) SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT OR LINKED WITH JORDAN. HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE A MATTER FOR JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIANS TO DISCUSS.

-- ASAD MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE PLO SHOULD BE INVITED TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE. PRESIDENT CARTER REVIEWED THE OBSTACLES TO THIS FROM A US VIEWPOINT, SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 109457

I.E.. THE FACT THAT THE PLO HAS ACCEPTED NEITHER THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL NOR SC RESOLUTION 242. THE PRESIDENT URGED THAT THE ARABS CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION PROBLEM. WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A REALISTIC BASIS FOR CONVENING GENEVA, IN LIGHT OF ISRAEL'S REFUSAL, WHICH THE US UNDERSTANDS, TO DEAL WITH AN ORGANIZATION WHICH MAINTAINS THE POSITION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD DISAPPEAR AS A STATE. PRESIDENT CARTER STRESSED AT THE SAME TIME OUR RECOGNITION THAT THE PALESTINIANS DESERVE A HOMELAND OF THEIR OWN, AND THAT THEIR VIEWS MUST BE HEARD IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

-- IN SUM, THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD, AS ONE OF THE KEY LEADERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WAS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN OUR POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS. IT ENABLED PRESIDENT CARTER TO UNDERSTAND BETTER SYRIAN VIEWS AND TO UNDERLINE THE ISSUES ON WHICH MORE THOUGHT AND EFFORT WILL BE NEEDED IF GENEVA IS TO BE CONVENED WITH PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS. THE MEETING WAS HELD IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CORDIALITY AND FRANKNESS, AND ESTABLISHED AN EXCELLENT PERSONAL RAPPORT, WHICH WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE PERIOD AHEAD.

-- FOLLOWING SECRETARY VANCE'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO TEHRAN AND DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO IN GENEVA, PRINCE FAHD WILL VISIT WASHINGTON TO COMPLETE THIS ROUND OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONSULTATIONS. THEN, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING ISRAEL'S ELECTIONS, WE WILL LOOK FOR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEETING WITH NEW ISRAELI LEADERSHIP AND ENVISAGE THAT SECRETARY VANCE WILL MAKE ANOTHER VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN AN EFFORT

TO HELP THE PARTIES MOVE TOWARD AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS
FOR RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

2. FOR TEL AVIV: THE SECRETARY WILL BRIEF FOREIGN MIN-
ISTER ALLON ON ASAD MEETING DURING THEIR LUNCH IN
LONDON ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 11.

J. WE HAVE BRIEFED THE BRITISH IN LONDON.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 109457

VANCE UNQTE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE109457
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/EABINGTON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770170-0717
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705107/aaaafuuo.tel
Line Count: 187
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 11916088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2339238
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970904
Subject: PRESIDENT CARTER'S MEETING WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD
TAGS: OVIP, PDEV, PFOR, IS, SY, UK, XF, (ASSAD, HAFIZ), (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11916088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009